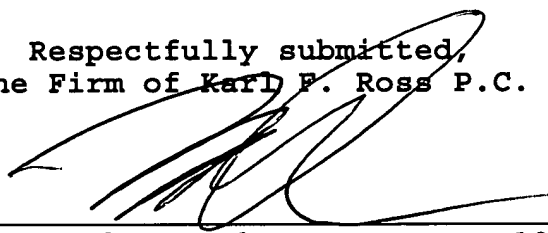


This preliminary amendment is submitted to eliminate multiple claim dependency and to provide the cross reference of the US phase of PCT/DE2003/002622 to the international application according to Rule 78.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Firm of Karl F. Ross P.C.



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2 February 2005  
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